

especially when they age into adulthood, those resources are not there.

Mr. Speaker, Sesame Street recently introduced a character with autism named Julia to teach audiences about inclusion. This month is part of a larger conversation about autism derived from a place of positivity.

I am hopeful that Julia can help convey such a message to our youth, and I will continue supporting programs that help people with autism and their families by providing the tools they need to succeed.

CONGRATULATING WESLEY SO ON HIS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wesley So of Minnetonka, Minnesota, who earlier this month became the United States chess champion. At 23 years of age, Wesley is already one of the world's top chess grandmasters.

In St. Louis, for the U.S. Chess Championship, Wesley So and his opponent went into a playoff after a two-way tie for first place. In the two-game playoff, So won the first game handily and was able to force a draw in the second game with a perpetual check with his knight. He extended his no-loss streak to 67 games, one of the longest runs in the game's history.

Mr. Speaker, Wesley So has quickly made a name for himself in the world of chess since coming to America from the Philippines 5 years ago. He is now the world's number two ranked player and is in prime position to play the world's top player, Norway's Magnus Carlsen.

Congratulations to Wesley So on an impressive run of dominance. We will be cheering for him as he continues to work on becoming the first American chess grandmaster in more than 40 years.

AVOID GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this Congress to work together to avoid a shutdown of the Federal Government this week.

We must pass a clean funding bill that Members from both parties can support, without any ideological riders. We cannot allow the American public and central coast families in my district to foot the bill resulting from partisan gridlock. A shutdown would mean disrupting economic growth and potentially triggering job losses across the country, as we experienced in the partisan 2013 shutdown.

A shutdown damages both our economy and national security. It is vital that this Congress put forward a clean funding resolution. It would be irre-

sponsible for us to engage in partisan political games with the funding of our Federal Government.

HONORING NANCY LOMBARDO ON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Lombardo on her well-deserved retirement.

Nancy is the executive officer for the Clearfield County League on Social Services in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. For the past nearly 20 years, she has been instrumental in leading several programs that the league provides for the betterment of local communities.

Nancy manages several programs, including Child Care Information Services of Clarion, Clearfield, and Jefferson Counties; Children First, which is a seminar for divorced parents to help cope with divorce and how it affects their children; Safe Haven, which provides a safe meeting place for custodial parents to have their children visit with the noncustodial parent; as well as the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Nancy has given her time to numerous boards to advocate for children's needs, day care services, child advocacy centers, children youth services, and more. She has been a valuable and dedicated leader to the league for many years, and she will be missed.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I wish Nancy Lombardo all the best in her retirement.

EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

(Mrs. TORRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, our children are this Nation's greatest asset. Our future is in their hands. We have to make sure that they have the tools they need to lead our country and tackle whatever challenges the future holds.

This is why I was shocked the President's budget makes drastic cuts to education—cuts that will have the biggest impact on kids who need our help the most.

In my district, a quarter of our kids live in poverty, with parents working long hours and multiple jobs just to make ends meet. Yet President Trump wants to cut before- and afterschool programs, as well as over \$4 million in programs to hire and train teachers and reduce class size.

As this Congress crafts our budget, I ask my Republican colleagues to reject these cuts and to truly invest in our future. We will never make America great if we leave our kids behind.

NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to April being National Donate Life Month.

There are currently 117,992 people who need lifesaving organ transplants. Of those, there are nearly 1,000 Kentuckians on that list. To put it in perspective, every 10 minutes, someone is added to that list.

Despite advances in medicine, there continues to be a gap between supply and demand. On average, 22 people die each day while waiting for a transplant. Kentucky legislation passed in 2006 enabling its residents to have their wishes documented through the Kentucky Organ Donor Registry. By joining the registry, an individual's wishes are documented electronically in a safe and secure database. Several States have also created their own registry.

Ninety-five of Americans are in favor of being a donor, but only 54 percent are registered. This is why registering to be an organ donor is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my field representative, Amelia Wilson, who received a liver transplant in 2005, and is currently awaiting a second transplant. Amelia, my longtime friend and a fellow Monroe County native, resides in Livingston County with her husband, Allen Wilson.

After courageously undergoing her first transplant, Amelia has dedicated herself to advocating for organ donation. We are lucky to have her serving the First District as our field representative. Beyond her service to Kentucky, her activism for this noble cause is what truly elevates her as an advocate, friend, and servant of the First District.

During National Donate Life Month, I encourage everyone to remember the bravery and diligence of people like Amelia. This April, please consider the importance of donating life.

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WE MUST AVOID A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to do everything in our power to avoid a government shutdown. Federal workers protect our public health and environment, they deliver our mail, they help our businesses and home buyers, and they keep us safe. Shutting down the government would suspend their paychecks, damage their morale, and shut off the essential services they provide.

My friend, Mr. WITTMAN, and I have drafted legislation to protect the pay of Federal employees in case Congress and the White House fail to reach an agreement. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor the